

March 16, 1976

money coming in cannot be spent and that's the purpose of it, if, in fact, it's over and above the General Fund limit. Accordingly, we can reduce the cash fund limit by \$400,000. There is no subsidy of the rest of the state in this fact because the money comes into the General Fund from the municipal sales tax take. Therefore, I propose that you adopt this amendment to LB 691.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the question. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 1 nay.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Stull. (Read Stull amendment found on pages 1149 and 1150 of the Journal).

PRESIDENT: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. During the hearings in the Budget Committee the Appropriations Committee added \$120,000 to the Director of Agriculture's Operational Fund for Predator Control. Later on we inserted the language at the top of page 15 which would direct him to pay out \$45,000 to ... Chadron State College would get \$20,350, the panhandle stations \$7,420, and the University of Nebraska \$17,230. This is to carry on research on the pocket gopher in Western Nebraska. The Director of Agriculture informed me that he couldn't stand to take this money out of the Predator Control money. It would seriously impair the operation of the predator control. I'm asking the Legislature to increase his operational fund by \$45,000, that's what it does. This would be to carry on this gopher control research. These three different Departments of state government have been cooperating. They're coming up with some interesting statistics. They found out that actually in Western Nebraska that the gophers are actually taking as high as 50 percent of the forage in certain areas. This money is needed. I would ask the Legislature to adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask Senator Stull some questions. First of all, Senator Stull, how did the Appropriations Committee come about deciding where the expertise was in the research for this particular project? I specifically.... I've been out to the Department of Agriculture. I think we have a fine institution out there. I did not know that Chadron State College had any agricultural expertise. I notice that that's designated for the largest chunk here of \$20,350. Is there a justification for that particular approach?

SENATOR STULL: Yes sir, Senator Lewis. The gentleman up at Chadron that's taking part in this research is a biologist and he has some expertise in this area. His name is Jay Drucker. The gentleman at the Panhandle Station that's taking part is Dr. Jim Stubendeck. The man from the Institute of Agriculture and Research is Dr. Ron Case.